Demand to spend One Tenth of Budget on Health Services

†2138. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a demand to spend one tenth amount of the Budget on health services;

(b) if so, whether Government have considered this demand; and

(c) if so, the details of the decision taken and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR) : (a) to (c) No such specific demand has been made. However, there is always a general demand to increase public expenditure on all social sectors including health care. Budgetary allocation on different sectors is decided keeping in view the availability of the overall budgetary resources and sectoral priorities. The health expenditure in the country as a percentage of GDP has been approximately 5.2% around 1997. The Central Government has been making every effort to increase its contribution to the public health expenditure. The overall Plan outlay in the health sector in the 9th Five Year Plan has been 4.01% of the total plan outlay as compared to 3.24% during the 8th Five Year Plan. The resources for public investment in health sector are also being augmented by securing assistance from various bi-lateral and multi-lateral agencies for implementation of various disease control programmes. Health infrastructure in certain States has also been upgraded with World Bank assistance.

Recognised Medical Colleges in NER

2139. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of recognized medical colleges in the NER; and

(b) the effective measures being taken or proposed to be taken by Government to open new medical colleges in the region particularly in the State of Assam ?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR) : (a) There are a total of four medical colleges in North Eastern Region—three in Assam and one in Manipur. All the four colleges are recognised.

(b) Central Government has no proposal for setting up new medical colleges. However, the Government has cleared a project for Rs.422.60 crores for establishment of North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health & Medical Sciences at Shillong. The Institute will have 500 bedded referral hospital with 35 teaching departments at Post-Graduate level in various specilities and Superspecilities and a nursing college with intake of 50 students. Further, Central Government is permitting establishment of new medical colleges under the provisions of Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 as amended and regulations made thereunder. Under the above Regulations, proposals have been received for establishment of medical colleges at Manipur and Tripura. The permission to start these colleges will depend upon fulfilling the qualifying criteria of Medical Council of India Regulations, 1999, availability of infrastructure and recommendations of Medical Council of India thereon.

Amendment of PFA Act

2140. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are in receipt of any representation from any organisation seeking amendment to the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto and action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR) : (a) Yes Sir. Representation have been received from various organisations seeking amendment in the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954.

(b) The amendments suggested include :

(i) Change in the title of the Act.

(ii) Amendment of certain definitions given under the Act.

(iii) Making provisions for giving a counter part of the samples to the vender.